

Newsletter of Tiffinian Association No. 243 March 2010

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by
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From the Head's Study

2010 marks the 130th anniversary of Tiffin School, and it is an event that we would like to celebrate during the year. Whilst we will be marking the founding of this school in 1880, it was very enjoyable to join Stuart Lester, the Chairman of Governors, and John Lulham, the Vice Chairman of Governors, as guests at the school birthday at Tiffin Girls' School just before half term. The common



history of the two schools was clearly seen in the birthday assembly that charted the establishment and development of the Tiffin schools in Kingston upon Thames.

Tiffin School needs to stay at the forefront of education as it has done during its history. We are currently investigating the development of a new virtual learning environment that will enable staff and students to work and share resources accessible in school and from home. Parents will also be able to access a range of information about what their sons are learning and how they are progressing academically. This upgrading of our electronic learning and the use of the latest digital technologies is an important part of how we need to be developing our education environment at Tiffin. We hope that this will be on line for September 2010. I believe that if the Tiffin brothers had been alive today, they would have recognised the drive for progress and learning that they responded to in the 17th century. Vision and progress has always been an ingredient of the Tiffin tradition.

I should like to encourage you to support the activities of the School that are advertised through the Tiffinian Association website that, under the excellent work of Alex Swift, is illustrating the events at the School. In the next six months it will be a pleasure to co-host reunion meetings in the School and anniversary events that the School and the Tiffin Parents' Association will be running.

Best wishes

HILDA CLARKE, Headteacher

OTA Skiff Marathon

The 97th Skiff Marathon will take place on

Sunday 16th May

(Our Centenary event will be in 2013.)

Entries are accepted from any Old Tiffinian of any age or standard, to race for the main trophy or the handicap event.

Contact me on 07884 065629 (Mob) or email
ellispeel@btinternet.com

The spectator launch, which follows the race, will leave Dittons Skiff and Punting Club, Queens Road, Thames Ditton, at 11am. Anyone is welcome.

The Dittons Club bar will be open afterwards for refreshments.

TONY ELLIS

Chairman's Letter

Dear Fellow Tiffinian,

I hope you all had a good Christmas and that so far the New Year has been kind to you, although for those of us here in the UK, I guess the main feature has been the extended periods of snow and ice.

Before Christmas, Mary and I enjoyed two Tiffinian 'events'. We were fortunate enough to see the School's interpretation of 'West Side Story' in the school hall. However it was not on the stage, which was occupied by the truly excellent orchestra, but the hall itself was used as the performing area. 'West Side Story' has always been one of my favourite musicals, so I have to be careful about being biased, but it was a very entertaining and vibrant performance with wonderful music, singing and choreography/dance. It is amazing that the hall seemed little changed from my days at the School, and perhaps it was no surprise to hear that there are plans to refurbish some of the facilities such as the lighting, etc.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th March

- House Drama Competition

Thursday 25th March

- OT Golf Society at New Zealand

Tuesday 30th March

- School Choir at Parish Church 7.30pm
(Music & Readings for Holy Week)

Thursday 1st April

- Term ends

Thursday 8th April

- OT Social Lunch

Monday 19th April

- Summer Term begins

Tues 27th – Thurs 29th April

- School Concert

Saturday 8th May

- School Choir at Parish Church 7.30pm
(May Choral Concert)

Sunday 16th May

- OT Skiff Marathon

Tuesday 18th May

- OT Golf Society at Gatton Manor

Monday 14th June

- OT Golf Society at Guildford

Saturday 26th June

- School Choir at Parish Church 7.30pm (Berlioz Te Deum)

Thursday 1st July

- OT Social Lunch

(Further details of School events can be found later in this newsletter or at www.tiffin.kingston.sch.uk)

Then there was the Carol Service – it was good to see a few Old Tiffinian faces in the audience – probably not as many as in previous years, but nevertheless the choir and the general ambience were as good as ever.

On 30th January I attended the Ex-Players' and Vice Presidents' Rugby Club Lunch at Grist's, along with around fifty others. Unfortunately the match had had to be moved to the opposition's ground owing to the frost at Grist's, but despite there being no rugby we had an excellent lunch and a great opportunity to catch up. Not only did some members of staff attend but also many of the TIPRA (Tiffin Parents Rugby Association – who raise money to support the school rugby) committee, and it is good to see the Rugby Club and parents of boys at the school building relationships with a view to mutual benefit.

The Trustees have now made the decision to support the School in the purchase of software which will enable membership to be conducted and managed on-line. It will also mean that the website will become a much more pro-active part of the recruitment and management process for the Association and will be upgraded in a similar time-frame. Whilst certainly not a 'silver bullet' to encourage younger Tiffinians to be part of the Association, it will be a useful tool, because use of the internet is now the primary route for communication these days. We anticipate it should be up and running by early summer, if not before, and further communication on timings, access, etc. will follow in due course. We are optimistic that it will facilitate the growth in membership, which we need.

Back last year we were pleased to welcome Phil Phillips, who is a contemporary of Stuart Lester and also a School Governor, to the Trustee body, and I can now tell you that Toby Brown has also agreed to become a Trustee. Toby is a lawyer by profession and left the School in 1999, which makes him the youngest Trustee, by a margin. This is really good news, as we seek to make the Trustee body as representative of the membership as we can, not only for today but for the future.

With kind regards,

IAN REDINGTON, Chairman

OT Rugby Club

Mince pies, mulled wine and the great British weather did its half-time best to derail Old Tiffs unprecedented progress, but it seems that nothing can dampen the spirits this season.

Before Christmas, Tiffs saw a record of only one defeat each for the 1sts and 2nds heading into the break, and a huge turnout for the Christmas do of over 30 players saw a night to be remembered as our celebrations took over Clapham.

After Christmas, postponed game after postponed game meant that some had not played for over six weeks. However, back-to-back away victories over Haslemere and Streatham-Croydon, along with a cup withdrawal from Mayfair Occasionals, means that the Club

enters the final third of the season extremely well placed in Surrey League 3 and the Surrey Bowl. The Club is also regularly getting out a 2nd XV for the first time in three years, with only one defeat so far this season, so things are on the up.

The Club realises that this season really could be the start of rebuilding the Club and getting playing numbers back, but we also know we cannot rest on our laurels. Grateful thanks to every single member who is getting new players down and helping with the day-to-day running of the Club. And a huge thank you must go to Gloria, Diane and Pete Smith for the organisation behind the scenes for all our home games.

To top off our season, Old Tiffs have an incredible 32 people paid and signed up for a tour to Madrid in April. It promises to be a fitting end to a transformed season.

If anyone wants to play for Old Tiffs and help the Club grow, please contact me on 07947 546 390 or fentiman11@yahoo.co.uk.
<http://clubs.rfu.com/CLUBS/portals/OldTiffiniansRFC/>

JAMES FENTIMAN

OT Football Club

Post Christmas is generally a time when we struggle to play games owing to waterlogged pitches. This year the arctic conditions and snow added to the situation, with even more games postponed than usual. Since the last report the 1st and 2nd teams have managed to play just four games each, with the 3rds managing to play five. The League has already warned clubs that they are likely to face double headers and mid-week games in order to meet the League's deadline for completing the fixtures.

Unfortunately the 1sts have slipped down a place in the League to 5th, following a win a draw and two defeats in these games, but are still in a good position. The 2s are still struggling and have slipped into a relegation spot. However, a win (3-2) over Dorkinians 2s on 6th February gives hope of a recovery, and there are teams struggling above them which could be caught. The 3s celebrated their first victory of the season on the 6th February with a 3-2 win over Mickleham Old Boxhillians 2s, and, whilst still languishing in a relegation spot, a couple more victories would see them overhaul several of the teams above them.

LEAGUE RESULTS TO 7th February 2010

1sts – AFC Division – Intermediate South. Captain – Justin Smith

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
9	4	2	3	24	22	2	14	5th out of 12

2nds – AFC Division – Five South. Captain – Paul Cotterell

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
10	2	3	5	20	36	-16	9	10th out of 11

3rds – AFC Division – Eight South. Captain – Ralph Stadie

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Position
9	1	3	5	23	44	-21	6	9th out of 10

If you are interested you can obtain details of all our league and cup fixtures and results on a weekly basis from the League website www.amateurfootballcombination.com

The Vets side has a regular programme of fixtures through the season, and they are enjoying a competitive season against regular old foes. Results so far have been mixed, with 8 wins and 8 defeats.

FINALLY PLEASE NOTE: New players of all standards are always welcome and NEEDED. If you would like to play Saturday afternoon football, then please contact Club Secretary Errol Walker in the first instance on 07984 473 074.

Good luck to all players and teams for a successful and enjoyable season.

STEVE JOHNSON
Chairman

OT Golf Society

As the New Year begins, all OT golfers are dreaming of those long summer days when the golf ball soars high, straight and long into the blue sky. The more recent weather has not been conducive to golf at all.

Our planned winter meeting on December 21st at Effingham was postponed, as the course was covered with snow, so 16 OT golfers and two OT lunchers were able to stay at home, which is just as well,

as travelling conditions were appalling. This fixture is now rearranged for Thursday March 4th, when I hope conditions will be better. The price remains at £52 for members and £55 for guests. We will have bacon rolls on arrival, we have the tee from 08.30 and a carvery lunch afterwards. We then plan to hold our AGM.

One event that did take place on November 30th was the final of the Knockout Cup. Allan Piggott and Dillwyn Rosser (see picture) met at Effingham on a beautiful sunny day. With home advantage, Allan started well and led for the first few holes, then Dillwyn got going and at the turn was one up. Allan got an excellent par at 15 (with a shot) to level the match. Dillwyn won 16, and then on the 17th (par 5) Dillwyn hit his second shot (a 4 iron) over 200 yards to the centre of the green to set up a birdie and to win the trophy. Congratulations to Dillwyn who played the back 9 in level par. It was great to watch. He was a worthy winner. [The photo shows the Knockout Cup finalists, Allan Piggott (left) and Dillwyn Rosser, the winner (right)]



The 2010 fixtures are now arranged and they present a fine mixture of golf courses.

The full list is as follows :

- Thursday March 4th**
am: the rearranged winter meeting at Effingham
- Thursday March 25th**
am: versus Old Hamptonians at New Zealand
- Tuesday May 18th**
pm: versus Old Kingstonians at Gatton Manor
- Monday June 14th**
pm: versus Old Surbitonians at Guildford (change of date)
- Friday July 2nd**
pm: Surrey School Old Boys at Clandon Regis (team of 6)
- Wednesday 11th August**
pm: versus KCS OBs at Royal Wimbledon (team of 10)
- Thursday 28th October**
am: Autumn Meeting at Cuddington

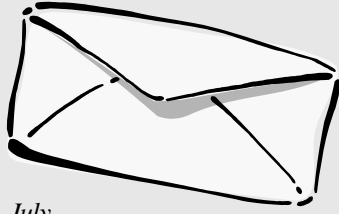
If any OT would like to join us for any of these fixtures, you will be made very welcome. We have golfers of all abilities. Please contact me on 01483 282411 or email allan.piggott@btinternet.com for full details.

ALLAN PIGGOTT

Letters

Hi Brian

Some comments on the page reproduced from the official programme of the Three Towns Pageant, held in Home Park in July 1951.



The producer of Scene 17, F V Whitton, was Francis Whitton, wife of a distinguished Tiffinian amateur actor, Joe Whitton, who had one of the leading roles in the pageant, as *Father Time*, if my memory doesn't let me down! Joe - or, to give him the dignity of his full name, Joseph H Mackay Whitton - was a member of the OT Cricket Club for many years, playing for the second XI, and his acting included many roles for Teddington Theatre Club and the combination of local amateur societies that staged a number of brilliant open-air productions in the grounds of York House, Twickenham. I remember with affection and admiration Joe's playing of Bottom the Weaver in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

That show was produced by Christopher Ede, who was the overall director of the Three Towns Pageant. There are some spelling errors in the names of the Tiffin pupils who took part in the pageant: 'J Mannel' should have been John Manuel, a tall and wiry fast bowler with a most unusual action who became Head Boy; 'D Tremoyne' would have been Don Tremayne, captain of the school cricket 2nd XI in the two years I was a member.

Heading the list of Tiffin cast members was 'G Perry' - the large, bumbling George Perry became an outstanding member of the features staff of 'The Sunday Times' for many years; 'N Issberner' was in the Arts Sixth with us, you will recall, and entered the Church.

I now recall that the amateur theatre group that did a number of open-air productions on the sunken lawn of York House, Twickenham, was a follow-on from the Pageant. Called the Coronation Players, it featured players and production staff from all three towns (for example, the nucleus of the Tiffinian Musical and Dramatic Society stage gang - Ken Tribute, Bernie Watts, John Howlett and yours truly - worked backstage on three productions there). I seem to recall that the 'Dream' was followed by 'As You Like It' and 'Twelfth Night', in which the aforesaid Joe Whitton was a superb Sir Toby Belch.

Another Tiffinian thespian-cum-cricketer was Tony Sorrell. I recall his moving portrayal of Henry VIII in Clifford Bax's play, 'The Rose Without a Thorn', which TMDS presented in the school hall in the 1950s.

Talking of TMDS: Did the defunct Society's scrapbook find its way into the archive? It was maintained meticulously for years by flautist Ken Dale, who was Kingston Council's chief Weights & Measures Inspector.

By way of pure anecdote, TMDS assisted me to get a reporter's post on one of the papers I subsequently edited, 'The Surrey Comet'. I was a junior scribe on a small paper in Richmond and sent the 'Comet' a report of the TMDS AGM that the paper printed as submitted. Subsequently, the Comet's film and theatre critic, the late Jim Biddulph, rang me with a message from his editor saying did I want a job? After the 'Comet', the Fleet Air Arm and the 'Western Morning News', I returned to the 'Comet' as successively Sports Editor, Assistant Editor and Editor.

Brian West (1952)

Dear Brian,

Your reference to the Three Towns Pageant of 1951 stirred dormant memories of nearly 60 years ago. It was the year of the Festival of Britain, a strange celebration that conjoined Merrie England with a yen for modernism in architecture, design and technology, Attlee's

progressive post-war Labour government's last aspirational fling. Beyond the exhibition on the South Bank with its spiky, slanted flagpoles and futuristic buildings, and the Battersea Pleasure Gardens where a tree walk and a quaint miniature railway rubbed shoulders with dodgem cars and a roller-coaster, every place in the country was urged to make some sort of contribution.

So Kingston, Richmond and Twickenham joined forces to stage a fortnight-long pageant at Hampton Court, a romp through history from the crowning of Athelstan to the extravagance and optimism of Victoria and Albert's 1851 Great Exhibition. Many Tiffinians found it a perfect way to infill the post-exam hiatus, and each night plus weekend matinees we would act as assorted townsfolk across the ages, sometimes respectfully, often disorderly, and at times with considerable violence. The Pageantmaster, by name Christopher Ede, handled his cast of a hundred or two like a suburban Cecil B. DeMille. The Saxon garb was indeed scratchy, but the Civil War not only gave us great costumes but provided opportunities for swordplay and musketry. I had forgotten that Tiffin Girls declined to take part. They weren't missed. Busloads of young lovelies were brought in daily, mostly from Richmond, not just to play roles but to help with costumes, props and everything else. One beautiful 16-year-old who would two or three years later become a real paid-up performer took to wandering around through some of the mysterious, forbidden corridors and courtyards of the Palace in full Elizabethan finery, with a gigantic ruff, jeweled stomacher and a stiff elaborate dress, becrusted with brocade and ornamentation. I would be lurking in a courtier's costume at a discreet distance, an anachronistic camera at the ready. Occasionally startled American tourists would get a brief glimpse as she glided across a dimly-lit opening. In thrall to the genius loci they would gasp as though they had seen a spectral visitation. "Gee, Myrtle, did you see what I just saw?"

One poor girl who must have hoped that her sufferings in the cause of thespian art would impress some visiting J. Arthur Rank casting director played a mediaeval scold. At each performance she was sentenced to be ducked in the chilly Long Water. A gang of rowdy sadists, including me, would strap her tightly to a chair at one end of a seesaw contraption, wheel it to the water's edge and let go of the other end, dunking her. Up she would come a few seconds later, gasping and gurgling, only to be immersed again. After three goes she would be cold, soaked, muddy, bedraggled and breathless, then whisked away to merciful blankets and recovery with a mug of warm Bourn-Vita. It was, after all, the year of Marlon Brando and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and Method acting was all the rage. She deserved an instant scholarship to RADA.

(NB: Bourn-Vita was a Cadbury drink introduced in 1948, much in vogue at the time. Later called Bournvita without the hyphen, it finally disappeared in 2008, one product that the new owners Kraft won't have to kill.)

Yours,

George Perry (1952)

Brian,

I hope I may be permitted to add a postscript to the correspondence on Mr. Meshenberg.

I never had any contact with him during my school career until in 1952, when I was nearing the end of my time in the Sixth Form. He sought me out with a request, having discovered that I already possessed a driving licence. He told me he was having driving lessons, and asked if I would accompany him the following Saturday afternoon in order that he could practise what he had learned with his instructor. I thought I should agree! I remember little about the event, but we did enjoy a very good tea at 'The Hut' at Wisley and then returned home. I never heard if he passed his test while I was away serving Her Majesty on National Service, but it must rate as a fairly unusual request for a pupil to receive at that time.

Best wishes,

Malcolm Hogg (1952)

Dear Brian,

I was interested to read Brian Bunker's piece on punishment by prefects - brought back some memories !

I was at Tiffins from 1943 to 1950. When I arrived, beating with a plimsoll by prefects was fairly common. Punishment took place in the prefects' common room, after it had been approved by either the head or deputy head boy. The culprit was allowed to plead innocence of the rule broken, but rarely succeeded. The maximum sentence was six of the best. Offences ranged from being improperly dressed (tie askew, not wearing a cap outside the school grounds, dirty shoes, fighting, swearing, walking on some areas of grass that were protected, running in school corridors, etc., etc.).

In retrospect, I can say, having been on both the receiving and administering ends, that most of the punishment was fair (according to the standards and rules of those days) and was accepted as part of life by 99% of boys. There were few repeat offenders, though some got into trouble regularly: they ended up in the Headmaster's study.

When Johnny Barker became head boy in 1948, I was appointed deputy head boy. Brigadier J J Harper, who was Headmaster by then, suggested to us that the rules should be adjusted to allow only the head and deputy head boys to administer punishment. This we adopted and also instituted a sort of court consisting of either the head or deputy head boy and two other prefects to which the prefect who caught a boy breaking rules had to submit his case. Likewise, the offender could plead his innocence to it. I remember it seemed to work quite well.

Some, but not all, teachers resorted to corporal punishment in the classroom, using a cane or a ruler to rap you across the knuckles, or for consistent inattention or talking, a whack on the backside in front of the whole class. Such punishment was for bad behaviour and rarely, if ever, for academic failings.

It's an interesting reflection on human nature that very rarely did boys take exception to being justly beaten by their peers, the prefects; but most resented being caned by a master.

Incidentally, in my opinion, Harper was a great Headmaster: things had become rather slack towards the latter days of "Tubby" Dean's administration, and JJ rapidly pulled things round and set the school on the path to becoming the fine school it is today. Tiffins has a lot to thank him for.

Best Wishes,

David Bateman (1943)

Brian,

I refer to Brian Bunker's article in December 2009's 'Tiffnews' on Corporal Punishment, and to my time as a prefect in Tubby Dean's time in 1945. Yes, slipping was administered by any prefect and I contributed several. Interestingly, in every case I offered the alternative of 100 lines or 6 strokes with a slipper, and in every case the slipper alternative was chosen by the offender. This, in spite of slipping so that it should hurt but not be vindictive, since word would soon get round that a particular prefect was a soft touch.

I believe that the choice of slipping over lines was twofold: firstly that the whole incident from offence to retribution was instant and all over in fifteen minutes, and secondly that the offender appeared as a hero to his peers after slipping, but as a wimp after the imposition of lines.

When I found a fifth former holding a fourth former's head down a toilet while flushing it – and the open air toilet block near Elmfield was not salubrious – I ascertained from the fourth former that it was an isolated incident, and an immediate slipping ended the affair. It involved no member of staff, no parents, no tribunal, no black mark on a report, no counselling (anyway, there were no counsellors) and no cost or time overheads. My impression was that the shortness of

such incidents was such that it was soon forgotten by both offender and offended, and that mental harm was non-existent or minimal, certainly when compared with the ever present rationing, bombs, anti-aircraft fire, V1s, V2s, fire watching, and the blackout.

Prefects helped to keep costs to a minimum. Apart from masters, there was Thomas Dean the Headmaster, Miss Longley the school secretary, Mike Hunt the caretaker, and two lab boys who were each paid five shillings a week, so overheads for the 630 pupils were minimal. Dr Chapple (French master) carried out the duties of Bursar in his spare time, and first-aid was carried out by Mr E C Brown, the biology master, or his appointee, usually one of his boy scout patrol leaders with a first aid badge.

I wonder how such occurrences and duties are dealt with to-day ?
Jim Swift (1947)

Dear Brian,

Brian Bunker's fascinating article about prefects started me on a train of thought.

While I now cannot recall any particular example of prefectorial chastisement of a pupil, it was common knowledge during my time (1961 to 1964) that prefects had authority to use the slipper. With what constraints or up to what age I do not know. This is pure speculation but might the practice have gone with the departure of Brig Harper; or perhaps during the 1960s after the Wilson Government began its assault on grammar schools ? I do, though, have clear memory of the slipping or plimsolling of a shrimp of a classmate in a science lesson for repeatedly failing to do his homework. This was administered at the front of the laboratory and, while I do not think it solved the homework shyness other than in the short term, it was great theatre, with the pupil reduced to tears ! I remember the names of both participants.

Yes, I remember the uniform inspections as I entered the Birkenhead Avenue gate around 8.30am. Socks were a particularity, though my own uniform infraction was one day to wear a blue shirt that was deemed too bright a shade of blue. By the time I reported to the Prefects' Room at break, the misdemeanour had been entered in a card index. I think I collected two other entries, one of which was for arriving three minutes late on a day when the 213 buses were even more crowded than usual. On that occasion, a travelling prefect had observed me waiting at the bus stop; so all was well.

In the early 1960s the prefects had use of a telephone, something that many households still lacked. A prefect gave me permission to use it one evening, when I needed to alert my parents to later arrival home than expected. This was probably the evening of a Churchill House social in the School Hall - December 1961 ? Barry Spelling, a capable prefect, was MC and entertainment included the junior boys giving a not very good rendering of 'Food, Glorious Food' and sketches that involved Tim Davies, later a professional actor, but then Head of Churchill and Head Boy.

Davies' successor as Head Boy left at the end of one term, only to reappear at the start of the next as a temporary member of the teaching staff in the Mathematics Department. C M Williams swapped his Sixth Form blazer for a sports jacket and, to the pupils, went from being 'Williams' to 'Mr Williams'. Only recently have I learned that this was a stop-gap measure to cover the departure of the then Head of Mathematics, Mr Shaw. Was this sort of occurrence unique and who had the idea ? Williams/Mr Williams made a competent job of marking and giving the debriefing on an end-of-term maths exam for my form; but, as he explained, try as he might to detect merit in one individual's paper, there was nothing for which he could award a mark !

Colin Knappitt (1964)

OT Rugby VP & Ex-Players' Lunch

Saturday 30th January 2010

The second such Lunch of the season was, as usual, organised by Peter Smith and ably catered for by the David Tyrrell team.
(The photos were taken for us, as usual, by Dan Godfrey – except the one where he is taking a well-earned rest.)



Book Column

'Hardcastle's Soldiers' by *Graham Ison (1950)*



Graham has published the eighth in his Hardcastle Great War series. (See his website at www.grahamison.co.uk)

It is July 1917. DDI Ernest Hardcastle, head of the CID for the A or Whitehall Division of the Metropolitan Police and his assistant, Detective Sergeant Charles Marriott, investigate the murder of a cashier at an army bureau de change at London's Victoria Station. An army officer claims to have seen the murderer running away, but despite giving chase, he was unable to catch him. An army cap left behind appears to identify the murderer, and Hardcastle believes that it will be a simple matter to go to Aldershot and arrest him. But he then learns that the same man may have committed another murder in Kingston. However, despite many false leads, the obdurate Hardcastle eventually arrests the killer.

[Graham has received his 2009 statement from Public Lending Right. It shows that out of more than 23,000 registered writers, he is in the top 3% of most borrowed authors from British public libraries.]

'Hardcastle's Soldiers' [ISBN 978-0-7278-6860-2] is published by Severn House.

'Haydn', a new guide by *Richard Wigmore (1967)* - reviewed by *Peter Lawley (1967)*



For several generations, an essential experience of being a Tiffinian was to attend morning assembly, in which we learned from the views of our late headmaster, Brigadier JJ Harper. His daily address concerned itself typically with our various school team performances over the previous weekend or evening, although on other occasions we would listen to his analyses of social, political and cultural matters. In this way, he established the tone of the School and his firm belief in the ideal of becoming a 'good all rounder' – in character, physical prowess and intellectual ability.

His views on music were characterised by an unremitting forthrightness of expression, so noticeably lacking in present-day music criticism. He held his sway with resolute defiance in the face of fashion and received critical opinion. For example, he was as fearless and decisive in questioning the ultimate value of the works of Benjamin Britten as he was an unapologetic supporter of Sullivan and Mendelssohn. I had the privilege of playing examples of the music of the latter two composers in school orchestra performances for which he expressed his appreciation in morning assembly.

Now, three decades later, Richard Wigmore strides into the fray, with his excellent study entitled simply **'Haydn'**. Richard dons his former headmaster's mantle as a compelling musical authority in his acclaimed new biography and guide to the music of Haydn. The first part of the book deploys the biographical details with wit, erudition and passion for its subject. For the already well informed, it illuminates and throws fresh light on the composer's life and works. For those new to the subject, it provides what is arguably the most authoritative study of Haydn ever written.

The main section is a detailed and comprehensive survey of the composer's works. It is packed with original insights, and lucid, instructive analyses. The compact volume, which fits neatly into a jacket pocket, is an essential companion at any concert which features a symphony, string quartet or choral work by Haydn.

This new publication establishes Richard Wigmore as the world's leading authority in his field. It has the added advantage of providing a model of excellence within the literature of musical criticism for its lucidity, infectious enthusiasm, and in the sheer vitality of its prose. Highly recommended!

'Haydn' by Richard Wigmore 2009 [ISBN 978-0-571-23412-7]. £8.99 in the Faber Pocket Guide Series.

Membership Matters

Firstly I must apologise to those of you who received with our December 2009 issue an arrears letter, when in fact you had already paid by Banker's order in October. The envelopes, including any enclosures, had to be ready at our printers well before the end of the month preceding publication - i.e. November 2009. At that time I had not received from our banks details of your October/November payments. We could not hold up the mailing of our December issue, especially as it contained details of some pre-Christmas events.

Those members who appear in my records not to have paid the current year's subscription will find an arrears letter enclosed. Should any of you have paid by banker's order, please let me have the full details of the debit on your account. We need to know whether the funds were routed to either Nat West or HSBC, both being the Kingston upon Thames branches. We still have some un-identified amounts on our statements, as they have incomplete references, so one of these may be yours?

Thank you for your support to the School via TAL. They need it. Best wishes for the rest of the year 2010.

DENNIS BARNARD

People

RON BARNETT (1967) visited the School recently to view the changes in the buildings since his time at Tiffins and to meet the new Head. He is now Emeritus Professor of Higher Education (semi-retired) at the Institute of Education, London. He is also Editor of the *'London Review of Education'*. He is a recognized authority on the conceptual and theoretical understanding of the university and higher education. His books, several of which have won prizes, include *'The Idea of Higher Education'*, *'Higher Education: A Critical Business'*, *'Realizing the University in an Age of Supercomplexity'*, *'Beyond All Reason: Living with Ideology in the University'*, and (his latest book) *'A Will to Learn: Being a Student in an Age of Uncertainty'*. He has held senior positions at the Institute of Higher Education, including that of Pro-Director for Longer Term Strategy and was also, for seven years, Dean. He is the immediate past Chair of the Society for Research into Higher Education and has recently served as Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee Inquiry into Universities & Students. He is a Fellow both of the Higher Education Academy and the Society for Research into Higher Education, and is currently Senior Research Consultant at the University of Surrey. He has been awarded a higher doctorate of the University of London and was the recipient of the inaugural Distinguished Researcher prize of the European Association for Institutional Research (EAIR). He has been a keynote speaker in 30 countries.

CHRIS CHAPPLE (1964) spent his whole career at Farnham in the Biology Department. To begin with, it was a boys' grammar school, then grew into a mixed one, and then the Sixth Form College developed. He finished up as Head of Science & Technology and is a principal examiner for UCLES. Chris was very involved with music at School and his children now follow in his footsteps. He was in the school first eight, and has since been a canoe instructor, dingy instructor, yacht master, skipper in many tall ships races and the Ocean Youth Club. He and his wife, Jill, now have a narrow boat.

JACK DALGLEISH, a former member of the Tiffin English Staff, who went on to become an HMI and then Chief Inspector for English, is now retired and living in Midhurst, West Sussex. Last year his book *'Selected Poems'* was published by the Redlake Press.

JONATHAN DARBY (2009), last year's School Cross-Country Captain and now studying History at Oxford, is still involved in running.



TIM DAVIES (1962), one of the professional actors produced by the School, recently had an interesting job, playing Howard Carter, discoverer of Tutankhamen's tomb. This is the second time he has played the man and quite a bit of dark hair dye was needed this time! It's for an installation at Carter's old house in Luxor, which has been fully restored and is open to the public. Twenty people can assemble in his study, which is now just as it was when he worked there. A door opens, and in comes the ghostly, three dimensional image of Carter himself to talk to the group for 25 minutes about his momentous discovery. He perches on his desk, mops his brow and even gives them a slide show. This is all done with optical projections, based on the 19th Century 'Dr Pepper's Ghost' effect. (You can Google this to find out more.)

Alas, no trip to Luxor for Tim this time – it was all done in a small studio in Camberwell against a green screen, with a locked-off camera. There are no editing points or changes of perspective – that would break the illusion. So the whole 25 minute speech had to be done from an autocue in one long, clean, uninterrupted take. Any

mistake and it was back to the beginning. Half way through there is a reference to 'Princess Hatshepsut' – just imagine !

In the end they got two clean takes and reactions from Egypt have been very positive. We are told that the Minister of Supreme Antiquities (great title) is delighted with the results. This may be partly due to the fact that he is name checked by Carter, quite anachronistically, several times in the course of his speech !

POORAN DESAI (1983) went to Worcester College, Oxford, to study Physiological Sciences & Medicine but dropped out from clinical training. He has been working on the environmental side, co-founding BioRegional (www.bioregional.com), and he has been involved in sustainable farming, forestry & eco-housing. He was awarded the OBE six years ago for services to sustainable development.

SIMON EASTWOOD (1983) is now Centre Manager of the Jonas Centre in Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire.

ROGER GARFITT (1962) has been preparing his memoir, *'The Horseman's Word'*, for publication by Jonathan Cape next year. This will give an account of his time at Tiffins and there are thumbnail sketches of JJ, George Worth and Jack Dalgleish. Roger's *'Selected Poems'* are published by Carcanet, and he runs Poetry Masterclasses for the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall.

DEREK JONES (1956) did his National Service before going up to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, in 1958. He is now retired and living in Somerset. He keeps in touch with **Pete Warn** (living in Switzerland) and with **Andrew Hutchinson** (also in Somerset).



SEAN LANG (1980), Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin University, has jointly signed a letter in the Daily Telegraph at the beginning of March deploring the decline in the teaching of History in schools.

DAVID LARMAR (1955) is doing a Sponsored Bike Ride to Paris in May on behalf of Mind, the Mental Health Charity. This will be a 300-mile push, London to Dover, across Northern France, and on to Paris – over 5 days. If you would like to sponsor him to reach his target of £1,300, please get in touch with him (or Pat) over the next few training weeks for more detail. We hope to publish in our June edition a report on the event and on the funds raised. Dave can be reached on 01932 785197 or david.larmar@yahoo.co.uk



GORDON MACKINLAY (1964) studied Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School, and for the past 30 years he has been a Consultant Paediatric Surgeon at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. In October 2009 he was invited to Adelaide, as visiting Professor, to lecture and to operate. For the past 15 years his major interest has been in keyhole surgery for children. Whilst commonplace in adult surgery for removing the gall bladder etc., keyhole surgery is still not practised widely in paediatric surgery. It offers considerable advantage in small babies and children, as major surgery can be performed leaving barely perceptible scars. Gordon has gained international recognition in this field and at a meeting in Hawai in May this year will become the first British surgeon to be the President of the International Paediatric Endoscopic Group (IPEG), a largely American dominated association. He also becomes next year President of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS), a high accolade at the end of Gordon's career.

PETER ROBINSON (1975) is currently a director of Quintessa (www.quintessa.org), a small specialist scientific consultancy company. They are best known for their work internationally related to radioactive waste disposal. Mostly, though, he is involved in statistical modelling work, e.g. for British Energy (now part of EdF). Otherwise he does quite a lot of software development in various areas, including the new area of carbon sequestration. He and his wife, Stella, have now been married 30 years and have two children.

RANADIP ROY (1993) still lives in Balham and is working as a consultant radiologist at University Hospital, Lewisham, and at St George's, Tooting.

DAVID SCOTT (1968) is still practising as a consultant paediatrician at the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, having stepped down as Trust Medical Director in March 2009 after 12 years. He is still involved in medical management, as he continues to chair the BMA's Medical Managers' Committee and sits on various GMC and Department of Health working parties and committees. He is in touch with **Ian Baker** and with **John Lees**.

NICK SCROXTON (2005) went on to gain a 2.1 at Oxford. Now he is doing research into micropaleontology and is off to Canberra Australia in the coming year. Nick is a previous captain of the school cross-country team.

BEN SEELEY (1995) works for the IOC and took part in the torch relay at the Winter Games in Vancouver in February.

TIM SHEPHERD (1980), widely known for his time-lapse photography, worked on the BBC 'Life' series with Sir David Attenborough.

RALPH STREET (2009) is in training for his running. This year he is hoping to go to the Junior World Championships again (in Denmark). He is going to run the nationals for cross-country, and, if he does well in this, he might try to get into the Surrey team for the inter-counties.



IAN SYGRAVE, former Head of History at Tiffins, has been recognised for his work in the voluntary sector. At a special ceremony, held at Alexandra Palace, the London Borough of Haringey gave him the top award as its leading Community Safety Citizen. The award was presented by the well-known BBC broadcaster and journalist, Dr Kurt Barling.

Ian enjoys keeping in touch with his former colleagues in the History Department. Many will remember **Dr Elizabeth Griffiths** who, since leaving Tiffins, has continued to plough her furrow in the field of agricultural history. Her most recently published work is 'Farming to Halves: the Hidden History of Sharefarming in England from Medieval to Modern Times' (Palgrave/Macmillan). This is an extremely impressive piece of academic detective work, which overturns the previous consensus that sharefarming did not exist in England.

ALEX THOMAS (2009) supported the school cross-country team at Oxford. He coxes the female Dark Blue boat. Alex is an ex Tiffin rower and sometime Tiffin rowing coach, as well as a runner.

ALAN THORN (1966) in January organised a very successful Cambridge Reunion for RGS Guildford, with over 100 attending a Dinner in St John's, Cambridge – preceded by a Buffet Lunch for their families in Queens' Old Hall.



MIKE TYLER (1954), Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide and acknowledged as a top authority on frogs as well as an eminent researcher, had two more books published in 2009. One of his books for children was translated into Korean and has now appeared in Chinese !

TOM VENESE (2009), last year's cross-country secretary, has qualified for the semi-final of his college frisbee tournament and has been invited to train with the university 2nd squad.

OLIVER WARING (2009) is still running, despite his passion for playing darts, hoping to compete in the Teddy Hall relays.

BEV WOODGER (1950) has managed to pass his BA (Hons) Open at the age of 77 ! He says he always seemed too busy when he was working. One module was the Advanced Diploma in Local History via the Internet with Oxford University and another, World Archaeology, with the OU. He is now considering doing an MA in History next September, so there is still hope for those youngsters who feel there are more interesting things to do when young !

Tiffin History

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE ARCHIVES

We acknowledge gratefully the following additions to the Archives:

a) From Peter Elliott (1964) a copy of Jim Greenwood's book on 'Rugby'. Jim was Head of English at Tiffins in the 1960s and i/c rugby. He had had a distinguished playing record, gaining 20 caps for Scotland in the late 1950s and captaining the side nine times. He had also played for the Lions and the Barbarians.

b) From Peter G Smith (1963) the details of a school trip to Spain and Paris in 1957, organised by Denis Bloodworth and Roy Knight. He also presented us with the Form IIa 1957 petition against excessive maths homework !

The First Headmaster

Now that we have a new Head, it may be the time to draw out a brief outline of the very first.

It wasn't until the 1920s, after Dean's accession to the headship, that the school motto '*Faire sans Dire*' came into use. However, it might

well have been Grist's motto. After having read the words below, I am sure you will agree that this is so.

Charles James Grist was born in Wells, Somerset, on 17th November 1856. He was born in the slums of Wells as an illegitimate child, his mother being Catherine Mary Grist, and Charles lived for a few years in the house of his grandparents, William Thomas Grist, who was a bookbinder, and his wife Mary Ann. In due course Charles' mother married a William House, who may or may not have been his father.

I have no idea how many men applied for the headship of the new Tiffin School, or at least the male section of that school, but at that point Charles had no degree, so he must have impressed those interviewing him considerably. Apparently Charles went to a school in Wells, but it has not been possible to find out which, though Grist in his application form stated that he went to Wells Secondary School from 1864 onwards, but that school cannot be identified. At the age of 14 he was a pupil teacher, and ten years later found him at South West Training College at Carmarthen in Wales. Having left Carmarthen in 1876, Charles taught at two schools, Nightingale School, London NW from February 1877 and then Bridgnorth Blue Coat School from 1877 to 1879, before his appointment to Tiffins in

January 1880 with a salary of £600 a year; but by then he still had no degree. Whether he promised at his appointment that he would continue to study is not known, but from 1880 Charles studied at King's College and Birkbeck College, University of London, gaining matriculation there in Jan 1884. I was puzzled for a while how his degrees (BA in 1887 and MA in 1890) were from Trinity College, Dublin; they have confirmed that he had never studied in Dublin and that his degrees were external in nature.

An unsolved mystery is when and where did Charles James marry Augusta Bown; the marriage doesn't seem to have been registered, very late for a non-registration. What is certain is that two children were born: Edith Augusta in 1888 and Leonard Charles in 1891. Both were born in Wells, even though the parents were living in Kingston. Probably Augusta went home to mum for the births, not unusual at that time. Leonard went to Tiffin Boys': whether Edith went to Tiffin Girls is not known, but it is possible. Though she is not specifically named, it appears that Edith was Tiffin's first Secretary from October 1907 until her marriage in 1916, certainly in the 1911 census she is described as a secretary but the proof word 'school' is not given. It appears that a Miss Cook was School Secretary from 1916 to 1918, to be followed by Miss Rose Grantham who held the office to 1928. She had been a teacher / secretary for some time before coming to Tiffins, in fact she had her own school, presumably a dame school.

What sort of man was C J G ? I am reluctant to give my views, as naturally I never knew the man. What is certain is that he was enormously respected both by boys still at school and those who had left his control. But he was strict and is recorded as having said that he could not see how a boys' school could be run without the use of the cane, and when he caned he caned hard. An example recorded was when an unpopular boy was put in a dustbin which was pelted with stones, but unfortunately a rebounding stone hit and cut another boy passing by; next morning there was a line of boys outside the study door who departed much more uncomfortable than when they had arrived. The funny thing was that Grist, while believing in the use of the cane, also believed that only he, and possibly Mr Lucas, the Deputy Head, should administer such punishment. This is shown by an incident when Mr Thompson, a teacher of some years standing, caned a boy for inattention, three strokes only, not a severe punishment. The father complained, and from the Governors' minutes it is obvious that the Head made very little attempt to save the master; however, the affair blew over and Mr Thompson stayed at the school until 1932, when he retired, except for a period fighting in France, where his son, an Old Boy of the school was killed. The Great War caused much severe grief to Grist, for as he read out the Old Boys recently killed his eyes filled with tears. Anyway, as the war ended, the first Head of Tiffins announced his retirement.

While all the above is perfectly true, a continual strain on Charles James was the completely inadequate buildings in which the boys tried to learn. Not only were the buildings a problem, but also the constantly rising number of boys attending; even the girls departure in 1899 only temporarily improved the situation. A new school was mentioned even before the First World War, but that event put a hold on any such hopes. After the war more temporary huts were erected, and as we know a new school was not built until 1929.

There was quite a long retirement for Charles, and during those twenty plus years he quite often appeared at school functions. He died at Smallfield, where he had retired in 1919 and where he died on the 25th April 1941. The funeral took place on 1st May at St John's Church Kingston and at Kingston Cemetery. The School was represented by Mr Dean, Mr Porter & Mr Wyndham-Smith and four senior prefects and the Chairman of Governors, Major Percy. Also

attending were various representatives of the Old Boys. Among the family present were son Leonard, daughter Edith, then Mrs Lewington, and an Old Boy played the organ.

A great man. How would Tiffins have developed without him ?

BRIAN BUNKER

Jack Spencer : School Groundsman at Grist's in the 1960s

'*Faire sans dire*' could have been written specially for Jack. Whoever decided to employ him at Grist's made an excellent choice for, in addition to the usual duties of a groundsman, Jack used his extensive knowledge, experience and expertise to make significant improvements to the ground.

He assessed the land and without the benefit of machinery dug, with pick and shovel, large soak-aways to enhance drainage. The spoil he used to infill an unsightly ditch and landscape the slope between the 'upper' and 'lower' areas. As part of this exercise, Jack removed a number of elderly, stunted trees and bramble hedge. Until the wilder areas were under control, Jack's skill with a scythe was invaluable.

All his work was of a high standard. For example, prior to the annual School v. MCC cricket match, the entire outfield would be cut with a 36" cylinder mower to give a professional, striped effect. This was a big task for one man.

Jack was an excellent mechanic and kept the machinery running on a shoe-string budget. On one occasion the engine of the motor roller had to be removed for repair, requiring the engine to be lifted three feet vertically before being swung from the body. This was accomplished using only a plank and length of rope. Experience and a 'can do' attitude replaced hoist and chains.

Jack might not have known the School motto, but he certainly lived by it. He carried out his work and plans for improvement with little discussion and no desire for acclaim. He was also a true gentleman with an understanding of people, a skill in quiet instruction, an ability to accept others' genuine mistakes and a wry sense of humour.

JOHN GATELY (1960)

Prefects Shamblers 1956



Following publication of this photo in our last edition, nearly all the names have come to light, as follows :
Duncan Stewart-Tull (seated), Dick Coon, Eric White, Frank Mosdell, Peter Warn, 'Toots' Bradley, Russell Steward, David Jenkins, (unknown) & John Pullan

Editor

Many members have said how pleased they are with the monthly Tiffin Bulletin, produced by Alex Swift at the School. This should keep you up to date with School and Association events in a way that a quarterly 'Tiffnews' cannot. If you are on email, but have not been receiving the email Bulletins, it may be that we do not have your current email address? Let me or Alex know, if that is the case.

Much effort has been put in by a dedicated group to select new software that should revolutionise the way we communicate with OTs, and also the way we accept donations or sub payments in the future. More news in the summer or autumn of this year.

If you receive with this 'Tiffnews' a 'Subscription Overdue' letter from our hard-working Membership Secretary, please send him your cheque promptly, to save him unnecessary work.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Tiffinian Lodge

The Lodge started the New Year with a meeting in January, which saw a demonstration of the Ceremony of Passing. This is the ceremony where the candidate goes from being in the First Degree in Masonry to the Second Degree. Whilst disappointing that this not an actual ceremony with a real candidate, the meeting went well and showed off the good work and high standard of ritual we perform in the temple. A splendid time was had by members of the Lodge and guests, both in the temple and at the dinner afterwards.

All eyes are now looking forward to our next two meetings, as they are both special and important occasions for us. Firstly, on Thursday March 25th, we shall be holding an Open Evening, when friends and relatives of the Lodge will be invited as guests into the temple to hear a talk and explanation of many aspects of masonry. However, anyone who is interested in Freemasonry, be it keen interest from someone who would like to join the Lodge to someone with a small curiosity wanting to know a little more and ask some questions, is more than welcome to join us at this meeting. This will be followed by a delicious dinner for all who wish to attend.

The following meeting in April will see the Lodge host a meeting for all members of all the St George's Group. This is a collection of lodges in the Surrey province, and is a huge honour for us. We are currently busy rehearsing and preparing for this meeting, where we will have over a hundred masons joining us and watching the 'Tiffinian workings' of Masonic ritual in all its glory.

Watch this space in the next publication to hear how that meeting goes, but until then we would urge, and gladly welcome, any Old Tiffinian, any member or ex-member of staff or Governor who may have an interest in Masonry to get in touch. With the Open Evening approaching, this is an ideal time to discover a little more and even find out how to join the School Lodge. Please feel free to contact me, the Lodge Membership Officer and Press Secretary at richard.feltham@blueyonder.co.uk or on 07941 430706 for more details. I will be happy to answer any questions and queries and supply you with further details for the Open Evening.

RICHARD FELTHAM

OT 100 Club

Since the last report draws have taken place as follows :-

			Previous win
Nov '09	£50	Phil Read, West Ewell	'98
Dec '09	£50	Tim Whittaker, Claygate	'05
Dec '09	£1000	Peter Robinson, Claygate	

The above draws were held at the Social Lunch in December last.

Phil is a long standing member, while Tim started in '96, but the big winner here only began last May. Quite a good return on his investment! Peter has just finished a year's sabbatical and during this period was attending the Social Lunch regularly.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanking others for their support.

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income, so do please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum or £5 per month by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month plus half-yearly major prizes of £1000. Further information can be obtained from me at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX (Tel: 01483 850705).

GREER KIRKWOOD

OT 200 Club

We draw a member's 200 Club number each week for a prize of £10. There are two special prizes each year of £500 and the next special draw is in June. We still have some available numbers. 200 Club membership costs multiples of £13 per year per number. Please contact me if you would like to join. My details are on the front of this newsletter.

The winner of our big **£500 prize** in December was **Mrs Marjorie Hardy** (No.15).

Since the previous Tiffnews the following members have drawn a £10 prize:

74 Mrs J Dixon	84 Mrs P Owen	6 B Gosling
3 J Ebenezer	100 G Warren	59 G C Hinton
49 D W Richardson	52 S F Slinger	105 C J Harwood
158 A J Millard	42 B Holden	116 G J W Corbett
149 G A Latham		

Many thanks to all Club members. Your subscriptions provide important additional funds to the Association.

MARK DARBY

De Mortuis

EDWARD FREDERICK BLAKE 1940 – 2009

Ted Blake died peacefully in the early evening of Friday 23rd October 2009 in his room at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton. He had been battling with leukaemia with his customary fortitude and good humour for many months. His wife Connie had been with him for much of the day, as she had been every day throughout his illness, and she and Ted had the comfort of frequent visits and support from their children and grandchildren.

So many people in the world of patents knew, respected and liked Ted, not only in the UK, but in many parts of the world: during his 47-year career he visited 34 countries professionally, as he poignantly informed readers in his final article for CIPA Journal, just a few weeks before he died. In the 13 years he acted as PR Consultant to the Institute he applied his considerable knowledge, experience and creativity to the task of not only promoting the profession, but also raising public awareness and understanding of intellectual property. In this he was continuing the personal crusade he had started during his time as Marketing Director of the Patent Office, a role that he created and made very much his own.

Ted broke new ground, not only at the Patent Office but in the way government agencies and departments communicated their business to the public. It was Ted who recruited TV personalities Carol Vorderman and Clive Anderson as presenters for the world's first IF training course on video disc. His initiative in taking whole page advertisements in national newspapers, promoting the value of patents, was seen as maverick behaviour by some of his colleagues, although it worked well and was later emulated by many other departments and agencies.

Ted was one of the few people who could keep a room of 100 or more people entertained and amused, as well as educating them, by talking about patents. He had a knack for unearthing and retelling interesting stories, about the company director who rejected the Ron Hickman's invention of the Workmate, because it had 'little market potential'; about the cross-licensing deal for the canned drink ring-pull, which netted the inventors so much revenue that they had to employ teams of people to count it; about Yorkshireman Percy Shaw who invented the cats-eye. According to Ted, Shaw had been inspired by the sight of his car's head lights reflected in the eyes of a cat. 'A good job the cat was walking towards him', Ted would tell his audience. 'If it had been walking the other way, Percy Shaw would have invented the pencil sharpener.'

For one so widely travelled, Ted Blake's home and family life was unusually focused in one area, to the south-west of London. From the top of the landmark Tolworth Tower, you could probably point out where he spent most of his non-working life. He was born in Surbiton on 1st June 1940 and attended nearby Berrylands College and then Tiffin School in Kingston, where he took science A-Levels, before leaving in 1959 to take up a place to study chemistry at the University of London's Queen Mary College.

He met his future wife, Connie, while they were both still at school, aged just 16, at a Kingston Grammar School dance in December 1956. They stayed together throughout Ted's studies and were married in March 1963, the year after Ted's graduation with a BSc in chemistry. Daughter Helen was born in 1964 and son Paul in 1966. They moved in 1970 to Raleigh Drive in Tolworth, which remains the family home today.

As well as bringing up their family, Ted and Connie have always been heavily involved with their local community, organising summer fetes, firework displays for Guy Fawkes' Night and Christmas Fairs for the local primary school that both Helen and

Paul attended, Knoll Mead in Tolworth. They also devoted much of their time and energy to the local Sunray Community Centre, organising events for the youth club and the over 60s. This gave Ted a chance to develop his love of 'showing off', as Connie describes it, writing and performing in pantomimes and other shows, usually giving himself the role of pantomime dame which he would perform in a very masculine 'Terry Scott style'.

Ted loved music, but usually more in the appreciation than the performance. He and Connie were regular members of the audience at the Royal Festival Hall for many years, enjoying performances by many of the greats of the jazz world, including Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Humphrey Lyttleton. Anyone who has ever discussed jazz with Ted could not fail to be impressed by his encyclopaedic knowledge of musicians and their works.

Inspired by the vocal talents of his musical heroes, Ted was also prepared to have a go himself. He and Connie were members of Kingston Operatic Society for some years, where Ted would sing in the chorus. His greatest enjoyment, however, was playing comedy parts, such as Mr Fezziwig in 'Scrooge the Musical'.

Ted would also support Connie in acting as a linkman at concert parties she and fellow musicians gave at retirement homes around Surrey and in organising an annual production by and for the residents of Whiteley Village. The average age of the cast was about 80, and Ted, somewhat ambitiously(!), would devise sketches and routines for them to perform that stretched their talents to the limit, such as song and dance numbers involving 'I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts' in Italian and 'Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner' in French. Colleagues with linguistic abilities would get roped into translating popular songs into a variety of European languages.

Ted had many talents and strengths, but he did have one weakness: in spite of being the son of a master builder, his DIY skills were a family joke. They tell tales of sloping shelves, wallpaper pasted upside down and, to his children's great embarrassment, the day he was sent home from school where he had been 'helping' to assemble a wild-west play fort from old telegraph poles. According to his son Paul, the Parents' Association could not afford to have Ted bend any more of the expensive big nails while he was trying to hammer them in.

In Ted and Connie's garden in Tolworth there stands a fitting memorial to Ted's DIY skills: a self-assembly greenhouse with its door on upside-down and back-to-front.

Ted's funeral took place on Wednesday 4th November 2009 at Kingston crematorium.

(With acknowledgements to the CIPA – the journal of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents)



EDWARD WYN PARRY HUGHES 1918 – 2009

My late father Wyn, or to give him his full title, Edward Wyn Parry Hughes, was born the youngest of six children at the family owned hostelry, namely the Falcon Hotel in Llanilar, a small village just outside the mid-Wales town of Aberystwyth.

As far as I am aware, the family moved to Waltham Abbey in Essex, when my father was quite young and thereafter on to Kingston upon Thames, where he attended Richmond Road School before gaining a scholarship to Tiffin School in 1930. I don't know what he got up to at this esteemed establishment but got the impression that he enjoyed himself. I do know that he played rugby for the school and managed to break his leg in the process! Rugby was not his only sporting interest; before leaving in 1935 he gained his colours in

cricket and athletics, as well as in rugby. He did not shine academically and left when he was nearly 17 to work for a while at Elder & Fyffes Shipping Merchants.

Wyn joined the Territorial Army, and in 1939 he was mobilised at the outbreak of the Second World War, serving in France, Egypt, North Africa and Sicily. Indeed, I understand that after the battle of Monte Casino the name of Lieutenant E W P Hughes was mentioned in a Despatch for 'Distinguished Service'.

Regretfully I have no real knowledge of what my father did between the end of the war and circa 1963 when he married my mother Margaret. I do know that they met at the London Welsh Society. I was born in 1965 in Brighton, and the family moved to Hayes Middlesex in about 1967, where my parents ran a café called the Copper Kettle, before moving here to Criccieth in 1972, where my father was employed as an accounts clerk at a local bakery/café in the nearby town of Porthmadog before his retirement in the mid-1980s.

During his retirement my father was for many years the Treasurer of the local branch of The Royal British Legion, where he enjoyed the company of many like-minded old soldiers. During this time he also derived much pleasure in expanding his knowledge of the Welsh language (he was a very proud Welshman and always supported Wales, particularly in the rugby!), and he would practice his newly acquired linguistic skills on anyone who would listen! However, his main pleasure, particularly after my mother died in 2001, was sitting on our garden bench in the good weather watching the world go by and having a chat (in whatever language!) with his many friends who stopped by to say hello.

After my father died the predominant message I got from people was that they considered him to be a true gent – which I suppose isn't a bad epitaph!

SIONED HUGHES

(Below we include a personal reminiscence from Ray Hewitt-Taylor (1935), who knew Wyn well in his school and OTA days)

I was very sorry indeed to receive such sad news. Wyn was a year or two older than I, but we became great friends through our love of rugby, both before, during and after the war.

He was a very fast, light, elusive, will o' the wisp wing three-quarter; opponents found difficulty in laying their hands on him. We often practised together in the evenings on the school playing field, and we developed a 'call sign' (in Welsh of course) which foxed the



Wyn and Ray Hewitt-Taylor in their rugby playing days (1938/39)

opposition, or so we thought! If either of us with ball in hand called out 'Bwlch Gwyfford', then we would execute a scissors movement. And it all happened in Home Park.

At Athletics Wyn excelled at sprinting and the long-jump. I well remember, either on a Sports Day or at an evening Old Boys' match, watching Wyn at the long-jump pit behind the school buildings. He leapt a cool 22', which at that time I recall was of some significance?

Wyn was a very staunch Welsh Nationalist. In my late teens I spent an enjoyable holiday at the family home in Llanilar near Aberystwyth. At school he lived in Kingston, and I am unsure when he returned to his beloved Wales, moving to Criccieth. My wife and I called on him some years back, and he insisted on showing us the grave of David Lloyd George!

In 1938, with war approaching, Wyn and I, with about six of our contemporaries from school, decided to join the TA, and we presented ourselves at the East Surrey Regimental barracks, stating we were volunteering as Bren Gunners! (We could not have been thinking straight, but fortunately they were already up to establishment.) How lucky we were, as the East Surreys were badly mauled in the rearguard action at Dunkirk.

We all chose to join the 53rd City of London Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA based at the White City and which was already 'full' of OTs, with such stalwarts as Ernie Baker, Jack & Len Sanders, Brownie Mills, Bill Mahoney, Bill Adams & Arthur Ward *et al.*! Friday night was drill night.

We were at firing camp in Bude when war was declared, and being TA we were called up immediately, brought up to strength with conscripts from the East End of London, a good bunch, and then over the Channel to Cherbourg, where we were entrained to Châlons-sur-Marne in NE France. Our uniforms and guns were first world war vintage, and our job was to defend the RAF aerodromes established as the Advanced Air Striking Force.

In early 1940 there was a call for volunteers for North Africa, and I know that most OTs put their names forward. Wyn was one of a number chosen, and he and I lost touch until we were demobbed. Later in North Africa Wyn fought at the siege of Tobruk – no picnic!

On reflection it was merely a few years that Wyn and I were together in his long life, but in that time it was a privilege for me to have such a good friend.

R H-T

(Ed: I hope that other TAL Members who remember Wyn as a member of the Association will write in with additional information.)

We regret to announce the recent death of Cdr **ERIC C P ASHFIELD RN (Ret) (1940)** and of **EILEEN MARTIN**, a strong supporter of Tiffinian events, like her late husband Philip (a former Chairman of Governors and Vice-President of our Association).

In addition, we have heard belatedly of the death of **GEOFFREY L WILLIS (1949)**.

Oxbridge Reunion Dinner

The anticipated big Reunion Dinner (every five years) proved difficult to organise for this year. This will now take place NEXT YEAR on Saturday 5th March at St John's College, Cambridge. More details later.

BRIAN HOLDEN

Social Lunch

Our sixty-first lunch was held at our usual venue on Thursday, 10th December, viz. the Ristorante Sorrento, 379 Ewell Rd., Tolworth, meeting at 12.30 for lunch at 1.00pm, departure about 3pm.

The 18 present were :-

Jim Aston, Dennis Barnard, David Chaffey, David Evans, Dan Godfrey, Brian Gosling, Brian Holden, David Ingall, Greer Kirkwood, David Larmar, Stuart Lester, Peter Osborne, Stan Slinger, Chris Towlson, David Tyrell, Stuart Vidler, Howard Watson & John Wright.

Our Christmas lunch was well supported, but in a very quiet restaurant. Over the years it has always been seen to be packed out for this period, with prices up a few pounds. Of our numbers only 9 had attended the previous lunch, while there was a surprise but welcome visit from Stuart Vidler. The usual excellent varied lunch was enjoyed by all, the finale being the major 100 & 200 Club draws.

Apologies were given from several stalwarts wishing us well on the day.

The Thursday dates for 2010 are **Spring 8th April, Summer 1st July, Autumn 30th September, Christmas 9th December.**

All are welcome and, if you wish to attend and bring guests, please let me know on 01483 850705 or email r.greer.kirkwood@ntlworld.co.uk

GREER KIRKWOOD



Queen Elizabeth Road News

Senior School Rugby

The first half of the Spring term turned out to be a disappointing one, mainly owing to the terrible disruption caused by the weather. Matches were cancelled and practice time and space was limited. The senior sides never really got into any sort of rhythm, and in the two fixtures played, against John Fisher and Hampton, both the 1st and 2nd XV's came off second best. In a development game against Ibstock Place, the current Year 11s and L6th students had a chance to show what they could do, with an eye on a 1st XV place next September. Although there is a lot of work to be done in the next six months, there were a number of promising performances.

We look forward to a sevens season, hopefully unaffected by the weather.

STEVE CATHCART

School Cross-Country

A team of Ashley Henderson, Tim Livingston, Oliver Garner, Jamie Tabert, Aaron Moran and Ciran Costello made the pilgrimage to Coventry King Henry VIIIth relays. They were met and supported by former captain Tim Sagar (history 2nd year at Warwick – also Captain of tennis at Tiffin and now Captain of tennis at Warwick). They started off in a position to be able to cut through the field later on. Finishing a creditable 18/52 teams present.

The previous weekend (30th January) the school participated in the Local Kingston and Poly race. 143 Athletes enjoyed cold but still and sunny conditions in the annual local club schools match.

In the Year 7 & 8 race Anish Sachdeva followed home a record-breaking run by a club athlete. He sprinted up the final hill and giving no quarter in a dash for a Bronze individual medal. In gaining this he led the school team to a fine Silver position. Harry Jarvis ran in the top ten along with Tristan Perera to close out this fine team Silver medal. The B team went one better, with debutants Ash Grover and Abilash Sivarama putting in barn-storming performances, coupled with the experience of Christian Beattie closing out the B team squad.

The C and D teams also won their sections, with stunning debuts by Charlie Worthington, Hugo Thomas, Zayad Safouane, Sid Gareja, Matthew Gilbert, putting in performances for their school that they can quite rightly be proud of. Govind Chitta concluded the success with yet another first-rate performance for the school. An individual Bronze went to Anish, and a team Silver to Anish, Harry and Tristan. First B team medals (Bronze) to Ash, Abilash and Christian.

In the Years 9 & 10 race Senior professional Tharshan Balitherian and Year 9 Captain Michael Moore were joined by Brook Harris, James Axton and one of the day's revelations Zia Forooq. Zia strode his way into the A team, winning a team Silver, along with Year 10 supremos Nicholaj Schubert and Adam Curran. The B team also won medals as the best in their section. Zia collected team Silver. James, Brooke and Tharsh collected the Bronze medals for the first B team home.

The school team went to Oxford to do the 4x1 5mile relay. The seniors were placed 8th with Ashley Henderson, Oliver Garner, Ciran Costello & Greg Moore completing the A team and Richard Evans and Adam Raimondo setting off for the international select team.

The Junior side had Tim Livingston gain individual Bronze, and the team result, though still unconfirmed at the time of writing, should have us gain at least a Bronze medal for Tim again and Ben Gibbens (5th) and Edwin Harris (19th).

ROBIN SHAW

School Boat Club

The Autumn term began with great hopes from the Tiffin rowers, and these were duly followed with rewarding results. The season began with the biennial 'OK Row', which saw over 40 boys taking turns to row several boats over a long and winding 81 miles from Oxford to Kingston. The boys rowed through sun, rain and 36 locks to reach the Kingston boathouse in the late evening, to a cheering crowd. We had great parental and staff support along the way, and special recognition goes to five brave rowers who rowed the whole distance with no breaks!

The season began with Tiffin entering a large number of boats in the Kingston Small Boats Head. The day saw 45 rowers compete, and we had a record seven boats win their categories. Four additional boats managed a second place finish, and TSBC was represented in every year category from J13 to Senior. We were especially excited to have a win in the J18 Men's and Women's single sculls, as well as the J16 double scull, and the J18 quad sculls.

October saw the Boat Club decamp to Henley for an autumn training camp. The rowers spent four long days rowing three outings per day, then returning to Henley RC to eat and sleep. The camp was topped off with participation in the Upper Thames Small Boats Head, where the 30 boys rowed in what was at best testing weather conditions. Our highest placement came from the J16 double of Richard Clarke and Jack Claydon, who sailed past Eton to come in second place.

In December TSBC hosted our first Awards Dinner, which was a great success. The rowers were honoured to hear Richard Bolton, the Great Britain Juniors High Performance coach speak, as well as by the attendance of Head Hilda Clarke and John King. The event was highly oversubscribed and we look forward to an equally successful even next year.

The spring season holds great things for the Boat Club. It's been rather difficult for the rowers to have consistent water training time these last few months, as the fast-flowing Thames has kept us off the water for many days. However, we have already participated in Hampton Small Boats Head, where eight boats competed, and the Club was able to get a good look at the competition from other schools and clubs. We very much look forward to what the coming season will bring, and are looking forward to racing at School's Head of the River and Kingston Head of the River race, just to name a few. We want to thank everyone for their support of the Club; we hope to see you all at a few of our races this spring!

KHRISTINA FERRARO

Performing Arts

Many readers will have been lucky enough to have secured tickets for 'West Side Story' back in December. One of the most challenging musicals to perform (and not only with young people), it was given an involving production by Jack Stigner, presented on the ground level of the Hall in traverse format, with extensive and energetic choreography by Karolina Czerniak. Simon Ferris's orchestra, just about all fitting onto the stage, were staggering in their command of the score, and the demands placed on the cast by the musical and production team were triumphantly realised by everyone. Mention must be made of Kieran Brunt's Tony and James Walsh's Riff – both superb actors and singers who should go far.

An end of term concert, featuring all the school's instrumental ensembles plus Kitsch-Christmas-singalong, was well received by a large audience, as were the Carol Services in Kingston Parish Church. The choir followed this up in January with a concert with the London Mozart Players, in which they performed the Fauré 'Requiem', with Old Tiffinian Gareth John as baritone soloist. Also in the programme were Vaughan Williams's Five Variants on 'Dives and Lazarus' and Britten's Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings.

Soon afterwards came the House Singing, adjudicated by David Swinson of Trinity School and won by KM in both Unison and Part-song categories, with Kit Davey and Toby Hasler-Winter winning the unbroken and broken voice competitions respectively. As ever, feverishly intense rehearsals, all run by the boys themselves, yielded wonderful results. Two days later, the Dance department put on an equally entertaining and invigorating evening, involving over a hundred boys; subsequently, the GCSE Dance boys spent their half-term at Sadlers Wells working on a project with Dance England, to be performed at the Peacock Theatre at the end of March.

Dates of future Arts events are included in this edition of Tiffnews. There are some very special events coming up, not the least of which will be April's School Concert, featuring the premiere of Simon Ferris's new Jazz cantata 'Marco Polo' and Patrick Milne playing 'Rhapsody in Blue'. Events at school are now beginning to sell out well in advance – so be sure to get your tickets soon.

SIMON TOYNE

Choir Tour to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – July 2010

The Choir will be touring the Baltic States this summer, and further details can be found on the choir's new website, www.tiffinboyschoir.com, launched at the end of March. As ever, we rely significantly upon financial contributions from advertisers, local businesses, trust funds, and individuals to enable tours to go ahead. If you would like to help us, do please contact me, either through the website, or by email at stoyne@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk (to give a rough idea, every meal for the whole party of 54 boys and 6 staff is £500) – every amount helps, whether it be going towards the general tour fund, or supporting individuals through the bursary fund. Old Tiffinian

support for the New Zealand Tour was staggering, and it was wonderful to meet so many of you at our concerts – do please spread the word to anyone you know in the Baltics. As before, there will be a gala concert at a London venue in early July, and we will let you know of this as soon as the venue is confirmed.

Choir Dates

MARCH

Thursday 25th, 7.00 pm, Main Hall - **Performance Studies Evening**

Monday 29th, 7.00 pm, Main Hall - **Instrumental Concert**
Tiffin Swing Band, Tiffin School Orchestra, Second Orchestra
Concert Band, Intermediate Strings, and instrumental soloists

Tuesday 30th, 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church -
A sequence of Music and readings for Holy Week

Byrd *Ne irascaris, Domine*

Purcell *Hear my prayer*

Stainer *God so loved the world*

Holst *This have I done for my true love*

Finzi *Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice*

APRIL

Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th, 7.00 pm, Main Hall -
The School Concert

All of Year 7, Tiffin Boys' Choir, Tiffin Swing Band, Tiffin Samba Band, Tiffin School Orchestra, Patrick Milne, piano including Ferris *Marco Polo*, Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*

MAY

Saturday 8th, 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church -
May Choral Concert

JUNE

Saturday 26th, 7.30 pm, Kingston Parish Church -
Berlioz Te Deum (trebles only)
With Twickenham Choral Society
Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra
Christopher Herrick, conductor

JULY

Thursday 8th, 7.30 pm, Southwark Cathedral - **Gala Concert**

Tuesday 20th, 7.30 pm - **Summer Choral Concert**

Thursday 22nd, 11.30 am - **Founders' Day Service**

Thursday 22nd July - Sunday 1st August
Tour to Baltic States



Tiffin Choir at Kingston Parish Church



Tiffin Choir at Kingston Parish Church